

## MEDICAL CONTROL GUIDELINE: PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

### PRINCIPLES:

1. Pediatric patients require special consideration in assessment, treatment and medication administration.
2. For destination purposes, pediatric patients in the prehospital setting are defined as children 14 years of age or younger.
3. Treatments, medication concentrations and drug dosages are age- or weight-specific for the pediatric patient.
4. Accurate pediatric drug doses are:
  - a. Obtained by measuring the patient against a resuscitation tape to obtain the weight/color zone, and then
  - b. Refer to the EMS Agency Color Code Drug Doses L.A. County Kids for the medication doses appropriate to that weight/color zone.
5. Apparent Life Threatening Event (ALTE) is defined as an episode characterized by a combination of any of the following (for children 12 months of age or younger):
  - a. Apnea
  - b. Choking or gagging
  - c. Color change (usually cyanosis but occasionally erythema)
  - d. Marked change in muscle tone (usually limpness)

### GUIDELINES:

1. Obtain the patient's estimated weight utilizing a pediatric resuscitation tape and document the corresponding weight and color zone on the EMS Report Form.
2. Pediatric Airway Management:
  - a. Nasopharyngeal (NP) airway adjuncts are approved for children 12 months of age and older
  - b. Bag Valve Mask (BVM) ventilation, NP, or oropharyngeal (OP) airway are approved airway adjuncts for patients who are younger than 12 years of age, OR have a body weight less than 40kg
  - c. King airway is approved as a rescue airway for patients who are 12 years of age or older AND at least 4 feet tall
  - d. Endotracheal Intubation (ET) for patients 12 years of age or older **or** height greater than the length of the pediatric resuscitation tape.
3. Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR):
  - a. Use Neonatal CPR for newborns up to 1 month of age
  - b. Use Infant CPR for patients greater than one month of age to less than 13 months of age
  - c. Use Child CPR for patients greater than or equal to 13 months of age to the onset of puberty
4. Automatic External Defibrillators (AED):

Pediatric self-adhering pads or a pediatric attenuator system are recommended for infants and children younger than 8 years of age. Use adult AED for children 8 years of age and older.